

Recruitment of Clinical Investigator Physician Scientists

Kathryn M. Edwards, MD

Professor of Pediatrics Emerita

Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

October 21, 2025

Resources Needed for a Clinical Investigator

Clinical investigators require a range of resources to effectively conduct clinical trials. These include:

- **Study Site Resources:** Examination rooms, office equipment, phlebotomy and laboratory materials, and secure storage areas for study materials and medications.
- **Training and Certification:** Completion of training through the CITI Program and adherence to GCP guidelines.
- **Research Institute Support:** Assistance with IRB processes, research roles, trained research nurses.
- **Toolbox Resources:** Templates, sample forms, guidelines, and informational materials to assist in the development and conduct of clinical research studies. Clinical trials office is extremely helpful.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Understanding and adhering to FDA regulations and Good Clinical Practice standards.

These resources are essential for ensuring the integrity of clinical trials, protecting the rights and safety of participants , and ensuring the credibility of the trial results.

Example: The Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical and Translational Research

- The Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (VICTR) is dedicated to transforming the way ideas and research discoveries make their way from origin to patient care.
- Using our operational infrastructure, resources, and programs that have been cultivated for nearly a decade, VICTR fosters enhanced innovation across all areas of services and support for research.
- VICTR provides resources, education, and training to Vanderbilt University, Vanderbilt Medical Center, and Meharry Medical College researchers. This, in turn, speeds translation of scientific discoveries, improving treatment and health outcomes for our patients and communities.

Vanderbilt Clinical Research Center (CRC)

Medical Center North Unit (MCN)

- 12 patient rooms, specimen processing labs, and 2 private patient consult rooms
- 24/7 nursing care except for unit closure every other weekend
- Imaging, metabolic and exercise physiology services, sleep lab services, and scientific poster printing

Doctor's Office Tower Unit (DOT): Pediatric Outpatient CRC

- The DOT outpatient services are located on the 9th floor of the Doctor's Office Tower in Pediatric Hospital
- Open Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm
- Services include:
 - 5 patient rooms, pediatric specialty equipment, and specimen processing lab
 - One large room to accommodate family participation, consent, consultations, neurocognitive testing, or survey-like interviews.

Is a scientific advisory committee for each investigator helpful and who should be on it?

- A scientific advisory committee is essential
 - Members to Include
 - Division Leader
 - Clinical Research Leader in the Medical School/Department
 - Biostatistician
 - Expert in field of study of investigator
 - May recruit members from other institutions
 - Often helpful to recruit members from other departments and divisions